

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A configurable optical matrix for coupling data streams into and out of an optical WDM data transmission ring, a number of  $M \times N$  matrices, preferably four square  $N \times N$  through matrices, being connected together, via a network of switches and splitters, in such a way that, if possible, any connections can be switched between the inputs and outputs connected into the data link and between branching feeders and outgoers, it preferably being possible at the same time for possible backup switching of the optical channels to be achieved as well.